

A NEW COBITID FISH OF THE GENUS *ABORICHTHYS*  
CHAUDHURI (PISCES: COBITIDAE) FROM INDIA<sup>1</sup>

R. P. BARMAN<sup>2</sup>  
(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

Chaudhuri (1913) established the genus *Aborichthys* with *A. kempfi* as the type species from the Abor Hills, Assam. Subsequently Hora (1921, 1925) described two more species, *A. elongatus* from the base of Darjeeling Himalayas and *A. garoensis* from Tura, Garo Hills, Assam. The genus *Aborichthys* is so far known from these three species only. During the course of studies on fish fauna of Namdapha Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh (formerly NEFA), I have come across three interesting fish specimens which, on critical examination, prove to belong to an undescribed species of the genus *Aborichthys*. This new species is named after Dr. B. K. Tikader, Director, Zoological Survey of India.

The new species comes nearer to *A. garoensis* Hora in having vent distinctly towards the tip of snout than to the base of caudal fin, but can be easily separated from the latter by the possession of deeper body depth, shorter eye diameter and less number of lateral coloured bands.

**MATERIAL.** *Holotype* (Fig. 1): 100.0 mm in standard length. Reg. No. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, FF 2135.

*Locality.* Namdapha wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.

*Collector.* S. Biswas and party. Date of collection 12.12.83.

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<sup>2</sup> Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta-700 016.

*Paratypes*, 2 exs., 104.0 mm-110.0 mm. S. L. Reg. No. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, FF 2136. Locality, Collector and date of Collection are same as holotype.

*Aborichthys tikaderi* sp. nov.

Body greatly elongated and compressed. Body and caudal peduncle are uniform in height throughout so that dorsal and ventral profile of the fish are almost parallel and horizontal. Head depressed, length 5.77 to 5.88 and body depth 7.69 to 8.00 in standard length. Eyes small, diameter 8.50 to 9.00 in head length, 3.50 to 4.00 in snout length and 2.40 to 2.50 in interorbital distance. Snout subconical anteriorly equal in length to post-orbital part of head, length 2.25 to 2.43 in head length. Nostrils situated close to inner, anterior border of eye, the membrane between two nostrils produced into a short barbel — like projection. Mouth slightly behind tip of snout and bordered by thick, papillated lips, which hang loosely and prominently at angles of mouth. Lower lip interrupted in middle and greatly on each side. Barbels 3 pairs — 2 pairs rostral and 1 pair maxillary. All barbels of equal length and equal to eye diameter. Vent situated far forward being distinctly nearer to tip of snout than to base of caudal fin. Lateral line incomplete, reaching before base of pelvic fin.

*Fins.* D. ii/7, A. 6, P. 11, V. 8, C. 18.

All fins widely separated from one another, Paired fins horizontal and provided with thick cutaneous pads in the nature of adhesive tissue on ventral aspect of some of their rays. Dorsal

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

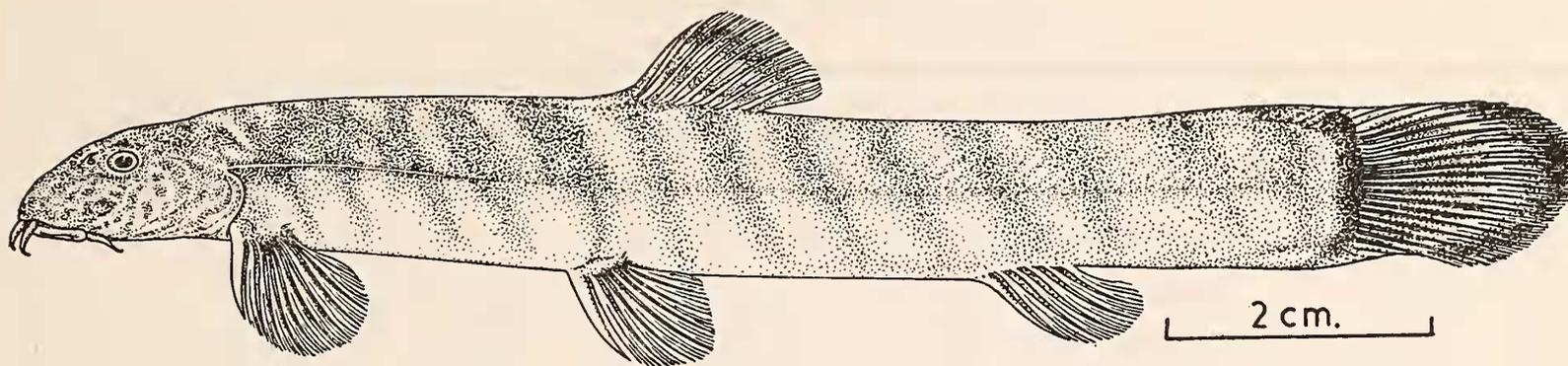


Fig. 1. Lateral view of holotype of *Aborichthys tikaderi* sp. nov.

fin small, its origin slightly behind that of pelvic fin and considerably nearer to tip of snout than to base of caudal fin. Longest ray of dorsal fin is slightly shorter than body depth immediately below it. Anal fin nearer to base of caudal fin than to commencement of pelvic fin. Pectoral fin considerably shorter than head length, its length 1.38 to 1.40 in head length. Pectoral fin situated at a distance more than double the length of pectoral fin from pelvic fin. Pelvic fin slightly shorter than pectoral fin and situated away from the anal fin by a distance equal to two and a half times their own length. Caudal fin long and more or less rounded posteriorly, rather asymmetri-

cal, its length equal to or slightly longer than head length.

*Scales.* Entire body covered with small, elliptical scales. Scales on ventral surface rather inconspicuous but are prominent in posterior region of body.

*Colour in alcohol.* Body pale olivaceous coloured. Dorsal surface of head marked with short black lines which anastomose with one another. Body marked with 15 to 20 black vertical bands which encircle the body almost completely except a very short space on ventral surface. Black bands and yellow interspaces are almost of equal width. A black spot present at superior margin of caudal fin.

TABLE 1

Characters	<i>A. tikaderi</i> sp. nov.	<i>A. garoensis</i> Hora
Standard length/Body depth	7.69-8.00	9.50-10.00
Head length/Eye diameter	8.50-9.00	6.60-7.20
Caudal fin	Equal to head length	considerably longer than head length
Pectoral fin	Situated far away from pelvic by a distance more than two times of their length	removed from pelvic by a distance equal to their length
Pelvic fin	Removed from anal by a distance equal to two and a half times their length	away from anal fin by a distance equal to one and a half times their length
Body with vertical bands	15-20 bands which almost encircle the body	30-35 bands which generally anastomose dorso-laterally

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

	<i>Aborichthys tikaderi</i> sp. nov.			<i>Aborichthys garoensis</i> Hora** from type series		
	*1	2	3			
Standard length	100.0	104.0	110.0	89.5	89.3	85.8
Length of caudal	17.0	18.5	18.0	16.0	15.8	15.7
Length of head	17.0	18.0	18.0	14.5	13.9	13.3
Depth of body	13.0	13.0	14.0	9.0	9.2	9.0
Eye diameter	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Snout length	7.0	8.0	8.0	6.6	6.6	6.2
Interorbital distance	4.8	5.0	5.0	3.8	4.0	3.0
Height of head						
at occiput	9.0	9.4	9.0	7.7	7.5	7.0
Width of head	11.2	11.8	12.0	10.8	10.8	10.6
Length of caudal peduncle	22.0	24.0	26.0	21.0	20.4	18.5
Least height of caudal peduncle	11.0	12.0	13.0	8.8	8.5	8.3
From tip of snout to vent	48.0	50.0	53.0	44.4	44.2	42.5
From vent to base of caudal	51.0	54.0	60.0	45.0	45.0	43.3
From tip of snout to commencement of dorsal	44.0	45.0	49.0	39.6	39.0	37.5
From commencement of dorsal to base of caudal fin	57.0	60.0	61.0	49.8	50.6	48.0
From tip of snout to commencement of ventral fin	41.0	44.0	44.0	35.5	36.0	34.7
Longest ray of dorsal	12.0	12.0	13.0	11.5	10.8	9.6
Longest ray of anal	10.0	11.0	12.0	10.3	8.6	8.0
Length of ventral	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.5	10.5	11.2
Length of pectoral	12.2	13.0	13.0	12.0	11.3	11.8
From commencement of pectoral to that of ventral fin	26.0	28.0	27.0	23.5	23.0	22.6
From commencement of ventral to that of anal fin	30.0	30.0	37.0	28.0	27.3	26.0
From commencement of anal to base of caudal fin	28.0	28.0	33.0	26.3	25.3	23.8

\* Holotype

\*\* After Hora, S. L. 1925. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 27: 236.

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins dull white coloured. Dorsal fin provided with two or three rows of black spots across their rays. Caudal fin dull grey coloured with a semicircular black margin posteriorly.

AFFINITIES

*Aborichthys tikaderi* is related to *Aborichthys garoensis* Hora in having vent distinctly nearer to tip of snout than to base of caudal fin, but can be easily separated from the latter by the characters given in Table 1.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Aborichthys*  
Chaudhuri

1. Vent almost equidistant between tip of snout and base of caudal fin or slightly nearer to tip of snout than to base of caudal fin.....2
- Vent distinctly nearer base of caudal fin than to tip of snout.....3
2. Body depth 9.55 to 10.00 in standard length; eye diameter 6.60 to 7.20 in head length; lateral black bands 30 to 35.....  
.....*A. goroensis* Hora

- Body depth 7.69 to 8.00 in standard length; eye diameter 8.50 to 9.00 in head length; lateral black bands 15 to 20 .....  
.....*A. tikaderi* sp. nov.
3. Vent nearer to tip of snout than end of caudal fin. Barbels much longer than diameter of eye. Black bands narrower than yellow interspaces .....*A. kempfi* Chaudhuri
- Vent equidistant between tip of snout and end of caudal fin or nearer to the latter than to former. Barbels as long as or slightly longer than eye diameter. Black bands broader than yellow interspaces. ....*A. elongatus* Hora

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